

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the third paragraph starting on page 15 at line 342 with the following amended paragraph:

Although it is not necessary, the flange assembly (base flange, the locking flange, and the seal flange) may be further attached around a rigid member 100 to build upon the spacecraft's structure. There is an o-ring 66 between the rigid member 100 and the base flange 20. The rigid member 100 may be hollow to provide access for a hatch, docking mechanism, or view port. Alternately, the ends of the base flange 20 may be extended to take the form of rigid member 100. However, neither the rigid member, nor extension of the base flange is necessary, and only represent different embodiments of the present invention with greater structural rigidity.